

THE DESIRE OF GOD

With great anticipation both Peruvian Bible Academies kicked off again in January of 2021. The schools were eager to reopen after being forced to close last fall. This semester the MEPI board of directors planned to only allow forty students to attend the Bible Academy in Iquitos due to the challenges that COVID has brought. When I received pictures from the first day of classes, I realized there were more than 50 students. A few days later I called President Guido Sahuarico and asked him about this. He said, “Well brother David, I have been meaning to tell you that every day this week...more and more students kept arriving by boat with their luggage and desire to learn more about the Bible and how to follow Jesus. They were so sincere and eager to learn that we did not have the heart to send any of them back to their villages, so now we have eighty students attending this semester in Iquitos MEPI Academy”. Our school in Contamana has thirty students this semester bringing our total number of students to 110 world changers.

The Peruvians hunger for education and discipleship is humbling. If we continue with the trend of previous classes, somewhere between 30 to 40 percent of our students will end up in traditional ministry roles serving as lead pastors, evangelists, worships pastors, youth pastors, or in other ministerial roles in the church. The remaining students will go on to serve God in the public sector serving as law enforcement officers, medical professionals, teachers, small business owners, construction workers, farmers, housewives, social workers, and as ambassadors for Christ in many other occupations. They will all use their gifts and callings to spread the gospel and love of Christ. Years ago, I was frustrated with the percentage of how many were called into the fivefold ministry. I have come to appreciate and realize the significant impact that every person makes through their calling by God to manifest and demonstrate His Kingdom. I am so thankful that the Spirit of God is calling and training young and old people alike to be ministers of grace in numerous spheres of influence which brings light into dark places.



MEPI Bible Academy in Iquitos



Some of the students at MEPI Bible Academy in Contamana

There is an amazing verse in the Old Testament. It's in the middle of a bizarre story involving King David, his son Absalom, Joab the commander of the military of Israel, and a woman who the Bible refers to as "a wise woman". David had banished Absalom from his presence for killing his brother Amnon. Joab, wanting to manipulate the situation because of David's grief over the exile of Absalom, sends for a wise woman from Tekoa. He asks her to come to David and make up a story to get him to reconcile with his son. David quickly realizes that Joab has put her up to this. In the middle of this dysfunctional story there is a gem of a scripture that is absolutely prophetic which reveals the heart of God and the heart of the gospel.

The wise woman says this in 2 Samuel 14:14 NIV, "Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die." However, that is not what God desires; rather, he devises ways so that a banished person does not remain separated from him. The answer to banishment and death is in the resurrection of Jesus Christ who defeated death so that all might live. He is the way, the truth, and the life. All over the world there are reconcilers and ambassadors of Jesus who are living out this gospel in front of many who remain banished from God because of unbelief and the penalty of sin.

Some of these students will primarily work as pastors or evangelists. Many others will be reconciling the banished as they teach in schools, serve in the military, engineer buildings, raise children to follow Jesus, use their business wealth to help the poor, give medical aid in hospitals, or drill water wells for communities. The way to reconciliation is straight-up Jesus Christ, but the many ways God has devised is through people who have His Spirit and live on a mission for Him.

Thank you for your partnership with Amazon Outreach. Your love, support, and prayers are joining God's desire that banished people will no longer be far away from Him but reconciled and experiencing His grace, love, and truth. — David Pepper



We're excited to introduce our new Iquitos Bible Academy Director, Diana Silvano, pictured here with her husband Pastor Julio.



Jimmy Dahua is a recent graduate of MEPI Academy. He was first disciplined in the church at Intutu and is being set in this month as the pastor in Nina Rumi village.



Winquer Montano is a professor of business management in advanced studies at the University in Pucallpa. A former accountant, MEPI graduate, and director of MEPI Bible Academy, he now ministers in the public sector to influence emerging business men and administrators.



The December Pastor's Conference encouraged, equipped, and strengthened hundreds of ministers. We heard several testimonies of many being blessed to gather again after a year of much isolation, restriction, and quarantine. Thank you Calvary Church, Pastor Marty Sloan, and all the staff that sponsored and produced impactful teachings for this conference.



We are also grateful for the medical clinic that Harvest Time and Pastor Deron Freeman sponsored during the conference. Our evangelists and pastors were able to take medicine and vitamins back to villages throughout the Amazon to help many in need.



Charles Neal and I in front of the original Yurimaguas church building in 2019. We give tribute to this wonderful man of God who has recently gone on to be with the Lord. His ministry and partnership have brought many into God's Kingdom.

The new Yurimaguas church building has been completed and in large part from our partners at Community Family Church in Independence, Kentucky. Thank you Pastor Tom Bates, Mission Director Randy Campbell, and Wally Shelton. Your sacrifice and generosity are transforming lives.

Prayer Needs

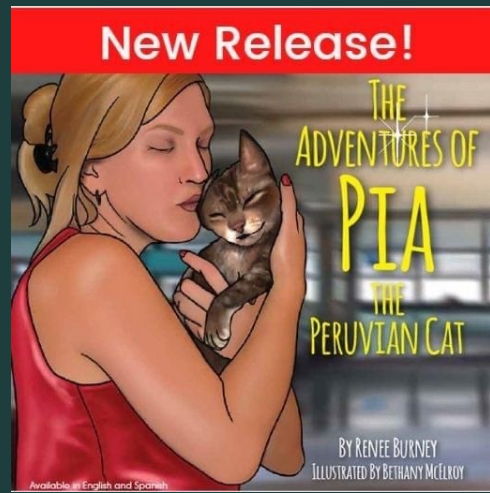
- The health of our ministers and students with the ongoing challenges of COVID, Malaria, and Dengue
- Economic rebound in the Amazon Jungle
- Provision for expanding the facilities at the Iquitos MEPI Bible Academy
- Wisdom for our directors of the MEPI Mission and to be led by the Holy Spirit

Personal Note

During the next few months we will be ministering with church partners in Texas, Washington, Michigan, Kentucky, and South Carolina. Our plan for getting back to Peru is in the month of May. We are always encouraged when connecting with our friends and making new relationships during our travels.

May God bless you abundantly!

David and LaRae



The Adventures of Pia the Peruvian Cat is based on a true story, written by Renee Burney and illustrated by Bethany McElroy, both are friends who live in Wasilla, Alaska. They were on a team together drilling water wells with us in Iquitos, Peru, the summer of 2019. While there, Renee and her husband found a very sick kitten outside their hotel. Against all odds and with the help of a few local veterinarians, they were able to adopt the kitten which now resides in Alaska. A fun read for children and anyone who loves animals.

You can find this book on Amazon and a portion of the sales will go to Amazon Outreach. Thank you Renee and Bethany for using your talents to help support the work at Amazon Outreach.

Current Financial Needs for Amazon Outreach

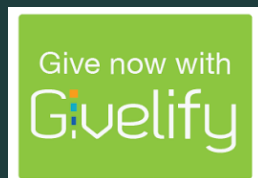
-\$10,000 for evangelism and outreach

-\$10,000 for medical aid in villages

-\$200,000 for a project to expand the Iquitos MEPI Bible Academy facilities

Thank you for your prayers and generous gifts to help those we serve in the Amazon Jungle. You are making a difference!

GIVE ONLINE: www.amazonoutreachperu.org



BY MAIL:

Amazon Outreach Peru
2210 W Main Street Ste. 107-331
Battle Ground, WA 98604

CONTACT:

David Pepper: 907-841-2434
davidpepperak@gmail.com

Beth Pepper: 269-779-3954
knotoncall65@gmail.com